

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-19 are pending in the present application with Claims 10-19 withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is amended and Claims 3, 4, and 6 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0021227 A1), and Claims 4-6 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of Claim 3 and the allowed features of Claim 4. Consequently, Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. In addition, Claim 5 has been amended to depend from independent Claim 1 instead of Claim 4, and Claim 6 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-9 contain allowable subject matter.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Remus F. Fetea, Ph.D.
Limited Recognition No. L0037

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK:RFF\la\ys

I:\ATTY\RFF\24S\245433\245433US-AF.DOC